

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15

16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for fabricating duct reinforcing rods, said apparatus comprising:

- a rack-and-pinion mechanism;

- a pair of tube pushers disposed on either side of a length of conduit, said tube pushers being driven by the rack-and-pinion mechanism to force the length of conduit in a substantially vertical motion over a threaded element, for positioning the threaded element inside the length of conduit; and

- a pair of crimper slide blocks each having at least one angled crimper, wherein the crimper slide blocks are brought to bear upon the exterior surface of the conduit, after the threaded element is positioned inside the length of conduit, for said angled crimpers to create deformations in the conduit on either side of said threaded element, thereby fixing the threaded element in place inside the length of conduit.

Please cancel claim 22.